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United States Senate
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August 16, 1999

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Ms. Sheryl J. Wilkerson
Director, Office of Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Wilkerson,

I am writing to request a written response to Ms. Edith Fransen's concerns regarding the FCC proposed licensing of low power radio station.

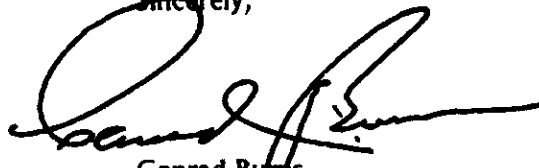
Ms. Fransen would like to know how the FCC will regulate and enforce laws for LPFM stations and whether fees will be increased for full power stations.

Please review Ms. Fransen's letter and respond to her questions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Senator Conrad Burns
Attn: Amy Jo Fisher
Post Office Box 7729
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 329-3528

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,


Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CB/ajf
Enclosure

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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
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Re: MM Docket No. 99-25

As the owner of three small town radio stations in Montana, I would like to voice my objections to the proposed licensing of low power radio stations.

The impact on existing broadcasters would be enormous. Those of us trying to make a living in small communities are already fighting with other local stations. Letting low LPFM stations into the crowded market will be catastrophic. With signals so close that they already overlap if we're not careful, LPFM stations, who's owners know little or nothing about radio and the correct equipment necessary to run a legal station, will broadcast over those of us who are legally licensed.

Anyone who spends time listening to the radio dial understands that interference is a serious problem. If the FCC shoehorns hundreds, if not thousands, of radio stations into an already congested radio band, the only result will be more interference and less service to the listening public. The law of physics does not allow everyone who wants to own their own radio station to be allowed one.

The LPFM proposal is a reward to pirate broadcasters who have been violating the law. Regardless of whether an LPFM service is established, the pirate problem will still be around, perhaps getting worse.

- Broadcast House -

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July 26, 1999
Re: MM Docket NO. 99-25

Where do you propose to come up with the resources necessary to regulate and enforce laws for LPFM stations? Will you increase the fee's the full power stations already pay?

How can an agency that is the "guardian of the spectrum" disregard the important technical issues in deciding to issue such a proposal?

It appears that the FCC is more concerned with licensing new stations so they can collect more fees, instead of protecting the already licensed stations.

Sincerely,


Edith Fransen
Owner

CC: Senator Conrad Burns
2708 1 Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101 ✓